

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council	
<u>LDP Policy Ref: NH 3.3</u>	SINC name: Butetown, Llechryd and Rhmney Grasslands
Grid reference: SO106096, SO101089, SO107089, SO114088 and SO116079	
Area (hectares): 1, 1.2, 2.8 and 2.2 (respectively by grid references above)	
Survey date: 7th September 2007 Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd)	
(UDP policy reference: C11.4)	
Summary description	
<p>Several small pieces of land supporting marshy grassland and semi-improved acid grassland. SO106096 is an area of rushes and scrub near the River Rhymney, with several marshy grassland plant species including Marsh violet, Marsh marigold and Ragged robin. SO100089 is dominated by Purple moor-grass, with Devil's-bit scabious, Star sedge, Meadow thistle and Quaking-grass. SO107089 is a mix of semi-improved neutral grassland and Hawthorn scrub, with Devil's-bit scabious, Common knapweed, Ox-eye daisy, Heath-grass and locally abundant anthills. SO114088 is a small valley with scrub and semi-improved grassland, and damp grazed pasture with Tormentil, Heath bedstraw, Sneezewort, Western gorse and Devil's-bit scabious. SO116079 is semi-improved grassland cut for hay, with acid grassland and heath at the margins.</p>	
Qualifying features	
Semi-improved acid grassland with at least 7 indicator species.	
Semi-improved neutral grassland with at least 8 indicator species.	
Marshy grassland with at least 12 indicator species.	
Secondary features	
Scrub. Ditches.	
Potential value/ unconfirmed features	
Most of the areas have potential to support reptiles.	
The areas with Devil's-bit scabious could potentially support Marsh fritillary butterflies, although most areas appear too small and isolated.	
The short grassland areas at SO107089 are likely to support waxcap fungi.	
Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)	
<p>SO106096 appears currently unmanaged, and is becoming choked by scrub and tall vegetation. Recent road engineering has disturbed part of the areas. Reinstating light, intermittent grazing would be beneficial for biodiversity. Japanese knotweed is present and likely to increase. Horses heavily graze the western part of SO100089. The east of the site is more diverse but currently appears ungrazed. It may become shaded by scrub unless grazed at least periodically. SO107089 is grazed by horses and currently appears to be in reasonably good condition. Japanese Knotweed is present nearby and may be a risk in future. The small valley by SO114088 is ungrazed, and may require some scrub control or grazing to maintain the grassland and wetland habitats. The damp grassland is heavily grazed by horses and would benefit from a slight reduction in grazing pressure. SO116079 had been cut for hay, and this may result in a gradual decline in plant diversity. Grazing would probably be better for biodiversity. The acid grassland and</p>	

heath on the adjacent slope appear unmanaged and may require periodic scrub control to maintain the habitat.

Access/ community use

There is no public access to any of these sites, although most have public footpaths running past their boundaries.

Additional information:

Disused spoil heaps at SO109090 (visible from the road) support heath and acid grassland that appears likely to meet SINC criteria. Viewed from a distance, the former workings at approximately SO120080 may also have developed acid grassland habitat of value for nature conservation. These should be considered at future review.

Species list (Dominant species, SINC Criteria, RDB or other notable indicator species)

(LBAP species shown in **bold**, species confirmed by 2007 survey in *italics*)

SO106096: *Salix cinerea*, *Fraxinus excelsior*, *Crataegus monogyna*, *Rubus fruticosus*, *Pulicaria dysenterica*, *Centaurea nigra*, *Trifolium pratense*, *Dipsacus fullonum*, *Medicago lupulina*, *Mentha aquatica*, *Cirsium palustre*, *Hypericum maculatum*, *Potentilla erecta*, *Hydrocotyle vulgaris*, *Galium palustre*, *Succisa pratensis*, *Digitalis purpurea*, *Lychnis flos-cuculi*, *Lotus pedunculatus*, *Angelica sylvestris*, *Viola palustris*, *Caltha palustris*, *Molinia caerulea*, *Juncus effusus*, *Juncus acutiflorus*,

SO100089: *Salix cinerea*, *Succisa pratensis*, *Potentilla erecta*, *Galium saxatile*, *Lotus pedunculatus*, *Cirsium dissectum*, *Senecio aquaticus*, *Ranunculus flammula*, *Myosotis sp.*, *Epilobium palustre*, *Cirsium palustre*, *Galium saxatile*, *Molinia caerulea*, *Briza media*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Carex nigra*, *Carex echinata*, *Juncus effusus*, *Juncus articulatus*, *Juncus acutiflorus*, *Equisetum palustre*, *Calliergonella cuspidata*, *Aulacomnium palustre*.

SO107089: *Centaurea nigra*, *Leontodon autumnalis*, *Succisa pratensis*, *Leontodon hispidus*, *Rumex acetosella*, *Prunella vulgaris*, *Digitalis purpurea*, *Pilosella officinarum*, *Lotus corniculatus*, *Plantago lanceolata*, *Trifolium pratensis*, *Leucanthemum vulgare*, *Calluna vulgaris*, *Crataegus monogyna*, *Rosa canina*, *Sambucus nigra*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Cynosurus cristatus*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Aira praecox*, *Danthonia decumbens*, *Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus*.

SO114088: *Achillea ptarmica*, *Succisa pratensis*, *Centaurea nigra*, *Hypochaeris radicata*, *Potentilla erecta*, *Ranunculus acris*, *Ranunculus flammula*, *Galium saxatile*, *Potentilla erecta*, *Trifolium pratensis*, *Lotus corniculatus*, *Ulex gallii*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Agrostis stolonifera*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Holcus lanatus*, *Poa Deschampsia cespitosa*, *trivialis*, *Juncus articulatus*, *Juncus effusus*, *Calliergonella cuspidata*.

Additional species associated with the adjacent valley include: Calluna vulgaris, Stellaria alsine, Stachys officinalis, Veronica beccabunga, Mimulus guttatus, Mentha aquatica, Ulex europaeus, Prunus spinosa, Crataegus monogyna, Nardus stricta, Molinia caerulea, Dryopteris filix-mas, Athyrium filix-femina.

SO116079: *Potentilla erecta*, *Rumex acetosa*, *Hieracium sp.*, *Hypochaeris radicata*, *Digitalis purpurea*, *Galium saxatile*, *Lotus corniculatus*, *Centaurea nigra*, *Calluna vulgaris*, *Plantago lanceolata*, *Succisa pratensis*, *Arrhenatherum elatius*, *Holcus lanatus*, *Cynosurus cristatus*, *Deschampsia cespitosa*, *Festuca rubra*, *Danthonia decumbens*, *Festuca ovina*, *Juncus effusus*, *Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus*, *Hypnum jutlandicum*. *The adjacent heath and acid grassland slope supports Calluna vulgaris, Vaccinium myrtillus, Ulex gallii, Crataegus monogyna, Sorbus aucuparia, Galium saxatile, Potentilla erecta, Hieracium sp., Deschampsia flexuosa, Nardus stricta, Festuca ovina, Danthonia decumbens, Anthoxanthum odoratum, Luzula multiflora, Dryopteris filix-mas, Dryopteris dilatata, Blechnum spicant, Polytrichum juniperinum, Campylopus introflexus, Hypnum jutlandicum, Pleurozium schreberi,*

Fauna observations: *Fox, Green Woodpecker, Buzzard, Song Thrush, Bullfinch, Nuthatch, Goldfinch, Chaffinch, Robin, Common Lizard (SO116079), Painted Lady Butterfly, Meadow Brown Butterfly, Peacock Butterfly.*

Additional species noted from desk study and consultation:

SO106096: **Grey Wagtail, Frog, Rhinanthus minor**, *Stachys officinalis*, *Cardamine pratensis*, *Serratula tinctoria*, *Vaccinium myrtillus*.

SO100089: *Euphrasia rostkoviana*, *Pedicularis sylvatica*, *Carex panicea*.

SO107089: *Calluna vulgaris*, *Festuca ovina*.

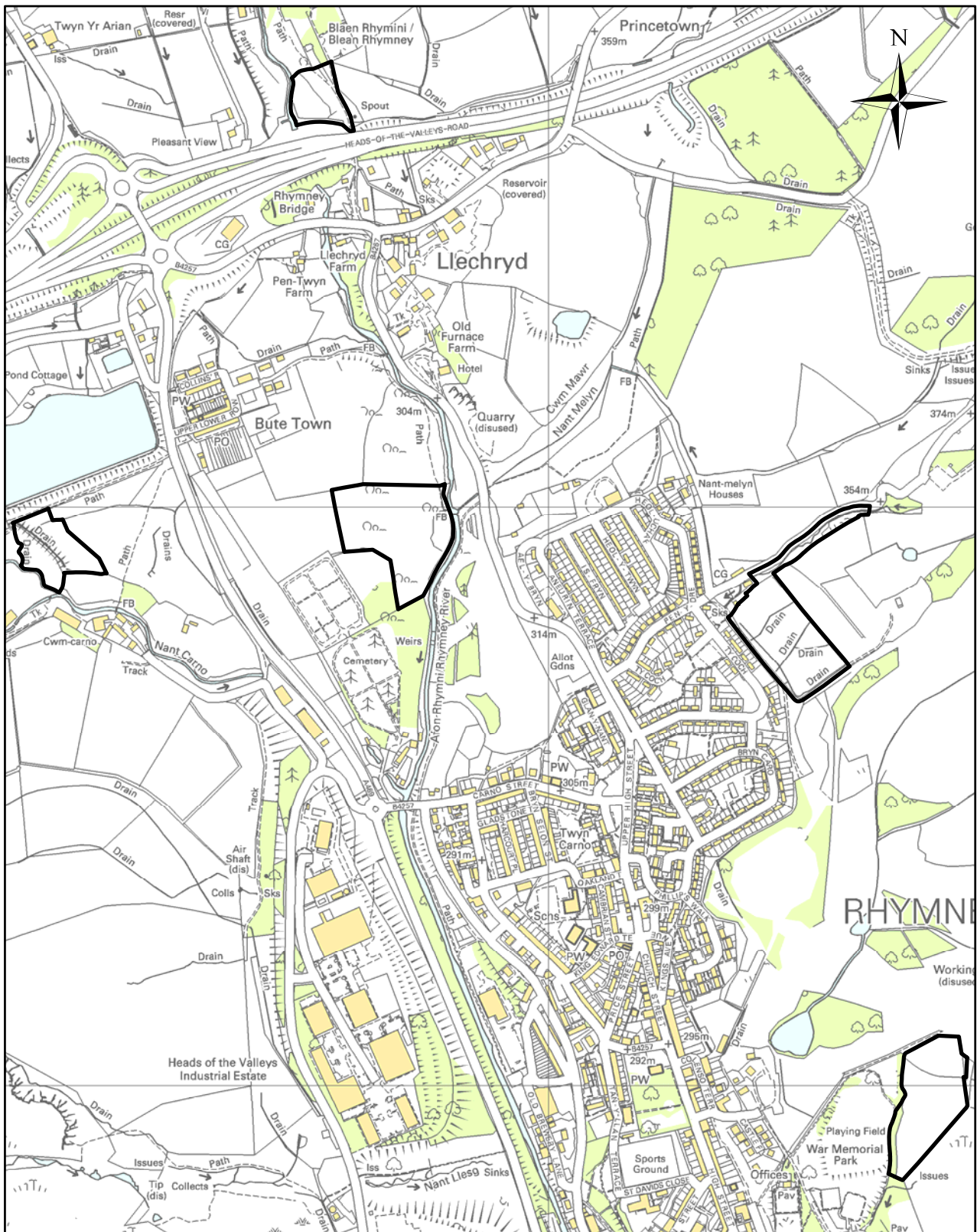
SO114088: (No records)

SO116079: *Euphrasia rostkoviana*, *Ranunculus bulbosus*.

Caerphilly County Borough Council
Site of Importance for Nature Conservation
LDP Policy Ref: NH 3.3 (SINC 004)

1:10,000

Butetown, Llechryd and Rhymney Grasslands, Rhymney. 10 Ha



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Gall hyn arwain at erlyniad neu achos sifil. Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili, 100025372, 2008.